

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claim 16 is now in the application. Claim 16 is subject to examination. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102" on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 16-18 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by International Publication WO 02/075815 A1 to Cambou et al., which has been translated into English in Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0080658 A1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 16 has been amended to better define the invention. Support for the housing including at least sections with a ring-shaped support formed thereon can be found by referring to Fig. 3, for example. Support for the base lens including at least sections formed with a collar that has a shape corresponding to the ring-shaped support that is formed on said housing can be found by referring to Figs. 2 and 3, and to the translated specification at page 10, lines 12-15, for example. Support for said collar of said base lens being directly supported on said ring-shaped support that is formed on said housing can be found by referring to Figs. 1 and 2, for example.

Claim 16 includes a semiconductor element that is disposed in a housing, and the housing includes at least sections with a ring-shaped support formed thereon. In contrast, Cambou et al. do not teach a housing. Cambou et al. also do not teach a ring-shaped support formed on the housing. Cambou et al. teach an un-housed square-shaped electronic imaging sensing electronic chip 42. The corners 80a, 80b, 82a, 82b, 84a, 84b, and 86a, 86b of the chip 42 act as a support for the feet 62, 64, 66, and 68 of the cylindrical wall 48 of the optics unit 46.

Claim 16 also specifies that the base lens includes at least sections formed with a collar that has a shape corresponding to said ring-shaped support that is formed on said housing. Since Cambou et al. do not teach a ring-shaped support formed on a housing, they cannot teach a collar that has a shape corresponding to a ring-shaped support that is formed on a housing.

Further, in the response to arguments, the Examiner has stated that he has interpreted the feet 62, 64, 66, and 68 and the walls 48 and 50 of the optics unit as being a housing in which the image sensor 42 is disposed. Applicants point out that if those elements are considered to be a housing in which the image sensor 42 is disposed, then those elements could not be used to satisfy the claimed collar of the base lens. As pointed out above, if alternatively, an attempt were made to equate those elements with the claimed collar of the base lens, the attempt would fail since those elements do not have a shape corresponding to a ring-shaped support that is formed on a housing.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 16. Claim 16 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claim 16 is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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MPW:cgm

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